

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A non-human mammal whose somatic and germ cells comprise a disrupted IEX-1 sequence, the disruption resulting in said mammal having a level of blood pressure that is  
5 higher than the level observed in a control mammal lacking said disruption.

2. The non-human mammal of claim 1, wherein said mammal is a mouse.

3. The non-human mammal of claim 1, wherein said mammal has a level of blood  
10 pressure that is 5 mm of Hg higher than the level observed in a control mammal lacking said disruption.

4. The non-human mammal of claim 1, wherein said mammal has a level of blood  
15 pressure that is 10 mm of Hg higher than the level observed in a control mammal lacking said disruption.

5. The non-human mammal of claim 1, wherein said mammal has a level of blood  
20 pressure that is 20 mm of Hg higher than the level observed in a control mammal lacking said disruption.

6. The non-human mammal of claim 1, wherein said mammal has a level of blood  
pressure that is 30 mm of Hg higher than the level observed in a control mammal lacking said disruption.

25 7. A non-human mammal heterozygous for a disrupted IEX-1 sequence, wherein a mammal homozygous for said disrupted IEX-1 sequence has a level of blood pressure that is higher than the level observed in a control mammal not homozygous for said disrupted IEX-1 sequence.

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8. A nucleic acid construct comprising a disrupted IEX-1 sequence, wherein the disruption comprises a sequence inserted into an IEX-1 gene such that the disruption prevents or modifies the expression of an IEX-1 polypeptide.